THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) The problem of infiltration into the country is mainly from Bangladesh. As per reports, a large number of illegal migrants from Bangladesh are staying in the country.

(b) The powers under Section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in India unauthorisedly have been entrusted to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations who have been asked to launch special drives to detect and deport illegal Bangladeshi migrants.

(c) Central Government reimburses to the State Governments the expenditure incurred by them in the work of deportation of illegal foreign nationals back to their countries.

Protection of rights of non-tribals in Bodoland

3440. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all Bodo Organisations were part of the recent tripartite talk for replacing the existing Bodo Autonomous Council with the new Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC);

(b) whether the non-inclusion of National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) in the talks could mar the effectiveness of the accord signed; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure protection of rights of non-tribals in Bodoland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (c) The Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) had participated in recent tripartite talks with the Government of India and the Government of Assam for a durable solution to the Bodo issues. The talks were supported by most of the prominent Bodo organizations. However, the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) remain instransigent towards talks.

The Memorandum of Settlement (MOS) signed between the Central Government, the Government of Assam and Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) on 10-2-2003 has been widely welcomed.

Adequate safeguards have been built in the MOS to ensure that the non-tribals in the Bodo Territorial Council (BTC) areas are not disadvantaged in relation to any rights and privileges including land rights presently enjoyed by them at the commencement of BTC.

Amendment in Official Secrets Act, 1923

†3441. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI LAJPAT RAI :

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received letters from some Members of Parliament insisting to amend the Official Secrets Act, 1923;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and whether prior to this the Press Council of India had also insisted for this; and

(c) if so, the period when the Government have received the above letters and the decision taken so far in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The matter is being looked into and the position in this regard will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financial assistance to Kerala for modernisation of police

3442. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala sought financial assistance from the Central Government to modernise the State Police Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government extended financial assistance to Kerala to defray the cost of modernisation of the State Police;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any proposal for financial assistance put in by Kerala has been pending for decision, and if so, the details thereof ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.